

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 024037

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 L-03 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 /045 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 024037

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, ETEL

SUBJECT: FCC CONSIDERATION OF ITT APPLICATION FOR DIRECT-
RECORD COMMUNICATION LINK WITH SAUDI ARABIA

REF: STATE 256176

1. ON JANUARY 30, DEP. ASST. SECY. SOBER MET WITH ITT
REPRESENTATIVES TO HEAR ARGUMENTS AGAINST FCC TERMINATION
OF DIRECT RECORD COMMUNICATION SERVICE TO SAUDI ARABIA
WHICH ITT HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED BY FCC TO OPERATE UNDER TEM-
PORARY LICENSE SINCE JANUARY 1975. ITT
OFFICIALS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT ITT DIRECT LINK TO SAUDI
ARABIA IN EFFECT SINCE 1948 SHOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY U.S.
POLICY OF OPPOSITION TO ARAB BOYCOTT. THEY INSISTED THAT
JANUARY 1975 CHANGE IN SERVICE WAS UPGRADING OF TECHNICAL
FACILITIES RATHER THAN INTRODUCTION OF NEW SERVICE-

2. ITT OFFICIALS INFORMED THAT STATE WOULD REQUEST FCC
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PAGE 02 STATE 024037

EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY LICENSE FOR ADDITIONAL 30 DAYS TO

ALLOW CAREFUL REVIEW OF FACTS AND POLICY AS THEY RELATE TO
ITT SERVICE TO SAUDI ARABIA. FCC APPROVAL OF EXTENSION IS
EXPECTED.

3. ITT REPORTEDLY HAS SENT CABLE TO SAUDI CORRE-
SPONDENT INDICATING THAT FCC, ACTING ON POLICY GUIDANCE
FROM STATE, INTENDS TO DENY RENEWAL OF TEMPORARY LICENSE
WHICH IN EFFECT WITH PERIODIC RENEWAL FROM JANUARY 1975
UNTIL FEBRUARY 2, 1976. EMBASSY MAY REPLY TO ANY INQUIRIES
BY INDICATING ITT APPLICATION STILL UNDER REVIEW. KISSINGER

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